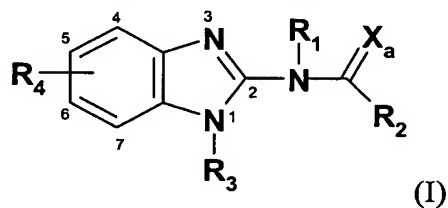


ABSTRACT

Disclosed are substituted benzimidazole compounds of formula(I):



wherein R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ and X_a are defined herein. The compounds of the invention inhibit Itk kinase and are therefore useful for treating diseases and pathological conditions involving inflammation, immunological disorders and allergic disorders. Also disclosed are processes for preparing these compounds and to pharmaceutical compositions comprising these compounds.